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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jeffrey L. Young and Stuart V. Holsten

Group Art Unit: 3679

Serial No.: 10/772,977

Examiner: Hewitt

Filed: February 5, 2004

Atty. Dkt. No.: 021840.148U3

For: Hose Connection Adapter

Confirmation No.: 5187

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 18, 2005

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted as a response to the office action dated July 18, 2005 ("the office action"). Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to deduct any fees necessary for any reason relating to this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 to 1.21 from Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP Deposit Account No. 12-1322/021840.148US.

The office action stated that, in the response filed previously, "No arguments have been presented pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render newly presented claim 32 patentable over Keane and Berfield in view of Keane."

Claim 32 recites a method for converting a friction-based hose receptacle to a locking hose receptacle. Keane is directed to "concurrently connecting an end of a vacuum cleaner hose to a canister suction inlet and an electrical power cord...." Keane at abstract. The disclosed device includes a retaining means that locks the hose end to the vacuum. Keane does not appear to disclose a friction-based receptacle and there would be no reason for Keane to disclose any adaptor to convert such a friction based receptacle to a locking receptacle. Berfield also fails to disclose converting a friction based receptacle to a locking receptacle. Berfield does not appear to disclose a device having a friction based receptacle. A hose 16 is captured on a flange 54 of a connector end 50 which is connected to the lid assembly 14 of the vac.

Thus, claim 32 and all of the remaining pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: 8/18/05